

News From The Capital

Band Concert Transfer Arouses Wrath



WASHINGTON.—One of the first innovations attempted by Mrs. William Howard Taft has brought disappointment to the wife of the president of the United States. Criticism is never pleasant, and especially when one tries to launch a Utopian reform and fails. But that is what Mrs. Taft seems to have done and the storm that has been stirred by her interference with ancient custom is still rising.

The trouble arose over Mrs. Taft's desire to have the Marine band's weekly concerts, that heretofore have been given on the lawn behind the White House, transferred to some other place. In looking over available places where the Washingtonians, black and white, might listen to the music, the president's wife found a site far removed from the White House on the banks of the Potomac.

Immediately an order was issued from the executive office to the superintendent of public buildings and grounds to prepare plans at once and proceed with the construction of a bandstand. The superintendent is an

army officer, and as such had no opportunity to point out to his commander-in-chief that the order might work injustice to the great middle class of people. He had to obey blindly.

The result has been that there are an increasing number of protests being filed against the change. The White House always has been accessible. The new concert ground is far removed from car lines and there is neither shade nor seats upon which those who brave the long walk to the river front may rest.

To those who possess automobiles or carriages the place selected by Mrs. Taft for future concerts is admirable. Society and the official and diplomatic sets can whirl in their motor cars and carriages and may appreciate the change, but those music lovers whose purses are not overly fat will be compelled to trudge a weary mile and a half beneath the heat of the summer sun, if they care to listen to the strains of one of the best musical organizations in the western hemisphere.

The local newspapers are bombarded with letters of protest against the innovation.

In spite of these protests, however, the bandstand was prepared and the concerts are being held there. The president and Mrs. Taft were present at the opening concert, also practically all the official set and the diplomatic dignitaries.

"Uncle Joe" Practices Golf on the Sly



"UNCLE JOE" CANNON may become one of the most select in the select coterie of Taft golfers after having scorned a try at the tennis cabinet of Roosevelt, according to reports. It has even been said that the speaker has already purchased a full caddy bag of sticks and is stealing forth on the sly to Chevy Chase in Washington to perfect himself in the art of smiting the little white gutta percha.

There are those who can remember when "Uncle Joe" was the "shiny" champion of the whole country around Danville, Ill. Cannon's old home. Those were in the days when he de-

voted more time to fresh air and exercise and less to stogies and politics. The old timers tell of how the speaker could smash a ball farther and crack shins more recklessly than any man in town. They are greeting the latest item in the budget of golf news with sad headshakes and wondering regret.

The education of Vice-President Sherman in the points of the game so well liked by the president is believed to have set the precedent "Uncle Joe" feels called upon to follow.

The speaker never had much of a desire for tennis under the Roosevelt administration. In the first place he couldn't learn how to score, and "love all" and "love forty" were as mysterious to him as some of Asher Hinds' parliamentary precedents. But with golf it is different. He is well equipped with the language of the game, and if the vice-president is to enter the Taft golf cabinet, why not "Uncle Joe?"

President Selects Summer Home by Sea



THE cottage which the Tafts are to occupy this summer is situated at Beverly, Mass., and is two stories and a half, painted green. Around it are trees and shrubbery and stretches of well-kept lawns and the place is one of the beauty spots along the shore. Entrance to the estate is from Ober Street and is guarded by two great stone posts, the cottage itself being hidden from the traveled way by the trees, although it is but a two minutes' walk in.

There is a great covered porte cochere over the private driveway leading to the house. Running around on three sides is a wide veranda, and on the ocean side is a tower crowned with a dome, and with windows nearly all around on the third floor. There is a veranda leading from the second story on the ocean side of the house over the dining room which can be reached from every one of the bedrooms.

From the living room to the right is the music room, finished in white. There is a beautiful library on the left, finished in cherry.

The cottage is lighted by electricity and has every modern convenience.

The stable can accommodate half a dozen horses and still furnish room for a large and well equipped garage.

Senator Would Put Curb on Pensions



AN EFFORT to limit the volume of a special pension legislation will be made by Senator McCumber, chairman of the committee on pensions, before the adjournment of the present extra session of congress. Such legislation has grown rapidly until, during the last congress, about 8,000 bills, the object of most of which was to increase existing pensions, were passed. During the present session about 1,000 bills providing for pensions not obtainable under the general pension laws have been introduced in the senate alone.

The reasons urged for such legislation have been in the nature of exceptional conditions either relating to the necessities of the applicant or to

a failure on his part to satisfy the technicalities of the law, although he could prove to the satisfaction of a committee that he was entitled to consideration.

But such legislation has grown so rapidly that either it must be limited or the pension committees of the senate and house will have to receive an additional force, making them, in fact, pension bureaus of considerable size.

To meet this condition, and to place some limitation upon pension legislation, Senator McCumber proposes to arrange a joint meeting of the pension committees of congress.

Mr. McCumber believes that it may be possible to reach an agreement by which the house and senate practically will pledge themselves that they will pass a given amount of pension legislation in one session, and no more.

He expects this meeting to be held before the adjournment of this session, so that some agreement will be in force when congress meets next December in regular session.

DOLLAR WHEAT HAS COME TO STAY

IN LESS THAN FIVE YEARS CENTRAL CANADA WILL BE CALLED UPON TO SUPPLY THE UNITED STATES.

A couple of years ago, when the announcement was made in these columns that "dollar wheat" had come to stay, and that the time was not far distant when the central provinces of Canada—Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta—would be called upon to supply a large part of the wheat consumption in the United States, there were many who laughed at the predictions and ridiculed the idea of wheat reaching the dollar point and staying there. Both of these predictions have come to pass. Dollar wheat is here—and it is not only here, but is here to stay; and at the same time, whatever unpleasant sensations it may arouse in the super-sensitive American, Central Canada is already being called upon to help keep up the bread supply, and within the next five years will, as James J. Hill says, literally "become the bread-basket of our increasing millions."

There are few men in the United States better acquainted with the wheat situation than Mr. Hill, and there are few men, if any, who are inclined to be more conservative in their expressed views. Yet it was this greatest of the world's railroad men who said a few days ago that "the price of wheat will never be substantially lower than it is today"—and when it is taken into consideration that at that time wheat had soared to \$1.20, well above the dollar mark, the statement is peculiarly significant, and doubly significant is the fact that in this country the population is increased at the rate of 65 per cent., while the yield of wheat and other products is increasing at the rate of only 25 per cent. For several years past the cost of living has been steadily increasing in the United States, and this wide difference in production and consumption is the reason.

This difference must be supplied by the vast and fertile grain regions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. There is now absolutely no doubt of this. Even the press of the country concedes the fact. Results have shown that no other country in the world can ever hope to equal those provinces as wheat producers, and that no other country can produce as hard or as good wheat. Said a great grain man recently, "If United States wheat maintains the dollar mark, Canada wheat will be well above a dollar a bushel, for in every way it is superior to our home-grown grain."

With these facts steadily impinging their truth upon our rapidly growing population, it is interesting to note just what possibilities as a "wheat grower" our Northern neighbor possesses. While the United States will never surrender her prestige in any manufacturing or commercial line, she must very soon acknowledge, and with as much grace as she can, that she is bound to be beaten as a grain producer. It must be conceded that a great deal of the actual truth about the richness of Canada's grain producing area has been "kept out of sight," as Mr. Hill says, by the strenuous efforts of our newspapers and magazines to stem the exodus of our best American farmers into those regions. It is a fact that up to the present time, although Canada has already achieved the front rank in the world's grain producers, the fertile prairies of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have as yet scarcely been scratched. Millions of acres, free for the taking, still await our American farmers; and when these millions are gone there are other millions in regions not yet opened up to immigration. A few years ago the writer, who has been through those wheat provinces several times, laughed with others of our people at the broad statement that Canada was bound to become "John Bull's Bread Basket." Now, after a last trip (and though he is a staunch American) he frankly believes that not only will Canada become John Bull's bread-basket, but it will within the next decade at least BECOME THE BREAD-BASKET OF THE UNITED STATES. Perhaps this may be a hard truth for Americans to swallow, but it is a truth, nevertheless. And it is at least a partial compensation to know that hundreds of thousands of our farmers are profiting by the fact by becoming producers in this new country.

The papers of this country have naturally made the most of the brief period of depression which swept over Canada, but now there is not a sign of it left from Winnipeg to the coast. Never have the three great wheat raising provinces been more prosperous. Capital is coming into the country from all quarters, taking the form of cash for investment, industrial concerns seeking locations, and, best of all, substantial and sturdy immigrants come to help populate the prairies. Towns are booming; scores of new

elevators are springing up; railroads are sending out their branch lines in all directions; thousands of prosperous farmers are leaving their prairie shelters for new and modern homes—"built by wheat;" everywhere is a growing happiness and contentment—happiness and contentment built by wheat—the "dollar wheat," which has come to stay. Notwithstanding this, the Canadian Government is still giving away its homesteads and selling pre-emptions at \$3.00 an acre, and the Railway and Land Companies are disposing of their lands at what may be considered nominal figures.

Mean Question.

The Lover—I love the true, the good, the beautiful.

The Cynic—Three girls?—Harper's Bazar.

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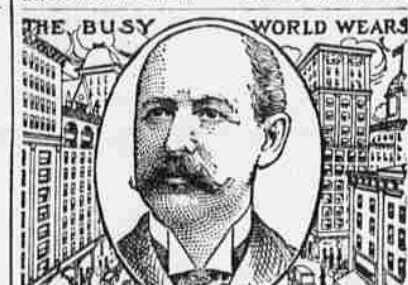
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